

# NORTH MISSION NEWS

NORTH MISSION ASSOCIATION  
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3004 16th STREET

Editor-In Chief  
Victor Miller

NOVEMBER



photo @ Jeanne Hansen

The Gattland Pit (16th and Valencia Streets) was the star of the show RELIGAREE/Wounds That Heal by local performance group Contraband. The Pit has played many roles in its lifetime - building site, funeral pyre, and now drop-in theatre. Contraband has also been around for a while, but this free show brought out their largest crowd yet. All the neighborhood tribes gathered for an eclectic exorcism that included a bonfire, a shipwreck, free apples, home-made music and modern dance. Perhaps the Mayor's Task Force on Graffiti will let the troupe's custom mural alone... seeing as it was funded, in part, by the Hotel Tax Fund.

## ARMORY STUDIO PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

Brian Doohan

For years, the Mission Armory stood vacant. Water gathered in the basement, dust elsewhere, and pigeons roosted by the narrow windows. Speculators came and went, ending in ruin and, in one case, jail. Except for storage functions and the occasional Police Athletic League boxing match, life passed the big red building at 14th Street by.

But now, as two recent gatherings attest to, things are stirring at the Armory. Film mogul Greg Snazelle hopes to establish a production studio to rival those of Hollywood, with the active participation of unions, community groups and City officials. And the North Mission waits and watches, mindful both of the benefits and dangers development brings.

On October 14, Snazelle's plans for the Armory were unveiled at a lavish press conference in the old building. A bar dispensed champagne and tables groaned under their burden of brie and shrimp and strawberries... assuredly the finest spread since Richard Deringer's promotional bash for Van Ness Gateway Center last spring.

The producer introduced Assemblyman Art Agnos (who helped negotiate the transfer of the Armory from the State of California) and Sup. Nancy Walker (who cast the deciding vote in a 5-4 resolution committing the City to participate in the Armory development) promised to form a task force to attract more film business. Agnos proudly stated "San Francisco knows how to build better neighborhoods."

The vehicle to secure community participation will be the Mission Armory Foundation (MAF), composed of City officials, Mission non-profit organizations and the North Mission Association. Alfredo Rodriguez, describing MAF as "an entity in formation" credited Agnos, Mayor Feinstein and MOHED director Bill Witte for their help in transferring 1.6 million of the 2.5 million in federal UDAG funds earmarked for the Mission to Armory Studios Inc. In return, Snazelle has promised the MAF a seat on the Armory Studios board.

Other government, film industry and union spokesmen praised the agreement. A City resolution was circulated wherein it was advised that Washington has declared San Francisco "a distressed city requiring increased private and

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## CONTRAS ESTABLISH SECOND FRONT IN S.F.

- by Patrick Fahey

A coalition of Contra organizations held a kickoff \$25-a-plate fundraiser in San Francisco's Spanish Union Hall on Columbus Day Sunday, touching off a massive international propaganda and recruitment campaign intended to "mobilize the Nicaraguan community outside Nicaragua." Six key areas in North and Central America are to be targeted for this campaign. One of those key areas is San Francisco.

Demonstrators protesting U.S. policy toward Nicaragua and recent Congressional approval of \$100 million in military aid to the Contras rattled the cocktail glasses and sensibilities within the hall, nearly pulling down the chain link fence around it. SF police on horseback and foot attacked demonstrators, hospitalizing two, in order to protect the Contra organizers and keep the rum and chit-chat flowing.

Some of the biggest names in counterrevolution mingled with the City's indigenous right-wing support community, exchanging handshakes, business cards and stories of old times under Somoza "when things weren't so bad as they are now." They included Adolpho Calero, Arturo Cruz and Alphonso Robelo, chief Capitol Hill fundraisers for Contra aid, as well as top operations people for the private aid and weapons movement. They made all the wire services recently, shaking hands with Ronald Reagan after their recent victory on Capitol Hill in obtaining \$100 million in military aid and, more importantly, "obtaining the political support of the U.S. government which we so desperately needed," according to the Director of National Politics of the the umbrella organization of the contra groups, U.N.O. (Organization of National Unity).

According to one UNO official who asked not to be named, the structure of the massive new "information campaign" consists of Regional Directorates comprised of Regional Area Committees co-ordinating operations in each of the six "concentration areas": Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Miami, New York and San Francisco. The purpose of the committees, according to the official is "to project civic and patriotic images" under the auspices of "education

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## ARMORY

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public investment". "Look what Miami Vice has done for Miami," stated one eager speaker.

Two weeks later, Snazelle, his partner and attorney Bruce Cole and MAF officials Rodriguez and his cousin David Bracker addressed the North Mission Association to hear the concerns of residents waiting to see how MAF keeps Armory Studios from becoming San Francisco Vice. There, the diversity of community opinion was apparant... small business interests and artists were cautiously supportive of possible economic opportunities, others expressed concern about such impacts as parking, traffic, crime and gentrification.

A few questions and the MAF responses:

- Q: Will small, local independent film-makers who are non-union be able to use the facilities?
- CS: We are not policemen. Union and non-union ventures can both rent facilities. Our facility in Potrero Hill already rents to low-budget independents.
- Q: What about parking problems caused by Armory trucks?
- DB: Production trucks will go into the basement. The trucks and their contents are too valuable to park on the street.
- Q: The Armory is in a violent neighborhood. What kind of security provisions will be made.
- AR: Having grown up in the area, I realize it's important for the community to be 100% behind the project so we

can bang out solutions.

- Q: The only thing banged out will be people's heads.
- BC: There will be measures to ensure the safety of people who come to San Francisco to do their shooting...
- AR: Shooting film, that is...
- Q: A lot of performing arts groups in the Mission fear the Armory will drive up rents on performance space.
- BC: I don't agree the Armory will gentrify the area. We're not putting up office buildings or boutiques. These facilities haven't caused gentrification in Hollywood.
- Q: How can local talent obtain jobs with Armory Studios or with its clients?
- CS: Send me a resume (c/o 155 Fell, SF 94102). In L.A., you find lots of people who can do costume design, etc.
- Q: What about displacement, homelessness... a lot of the unemployed don't have access to film unions?
- AR: The question of gentrification are real. (MAF agencies) are politically connected... for example, lots of agencies support Proposition M. So the intersection of politically involved agency people will offset, in a substantial way, whatever is potentially negative about the project.

Snazelle, pointing out his firm's past commitment to public service and bilingual media services, and the possibility of spin off jobs for the likes of caterers and florists, read a letter from one of the film unions proposing a technical apprentice program based on a successful Washington D.C. endeavor.

Rodriguez and Bracker admitted the possibility of local performers being able to work on Armory productions but emphasized: 1) that most of the shooting will be done by companies leasing space who are not subject to local hiring arrangements, 2) that it could be two years before Armory Studios is operational and 3) that unless performing artists can form some sort of talent clearinghouse on their own (or with City help) they will be on their own in obtaining work. The tentative nature of local opportunities was emphasized by frequent use of the word "dialogues" as representing the present level of commitment over the next few months.

It is evident that these "dialogues" must engender a substantive proposal for ensuring the security of community UDAG investments (including the return of all funds to Mission economic ventures) and be expanded to ensure the participation of artists' groups like Project Artaud, the Mission Cultural Center and Mission Economic and Cultural Association (who must, in turn take the initiative to build bridges over ingrained ethnic and organizational barriers). Moreover the Armory's immediate neighbors, both individuals and organizations like the Native American Health Center, must be allowed their place in MAF's planning process.

And what about the hundreds of San Franciscans lining up on Otis Street equidistant from the Armory and Van Ness Gateway Center... not for champagne and brie but for the chance to win a ticket to a Patel Hilton? The losers wind up sleeping on the sidewalk but if Whoopie Goldberg or Sean Penn takes offense at "distress" will cops start sweeps and nightsticks rain down on the heads of Otisville?

The MAF has the opportunity... and responsibility... to create a unique venture by dealing with some very common and familiar problems. "The Mission Armory project is a model," stated Agnos at the press conference. "Our work over the last month has shown that business and neighborhood organizations don't have to clash—they can work together."

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# NEIGHBORS

LYNN JOHNSON

Congratulations to the members of Local 2 for an outstanding victory in their recent negotiations with San Francisco hotels. This union has always had a commendable level of rank-and-file participation. The new president, Sherri Chiesa, has proven herself a fine leader capable of harnessing 6000 workers into a cooperative, efficient team and bringing the hotel owners to their knees.

One year ago, the hotel workers in our city were afraid of big losses in this year's contract negotiations. The union built a strong network of worker committees in each hotel to plan strategies for the negotiations, to educate and activate all union members, and to elicit community support for the workers' struggle. In conventions, rallies, pledge programs, demonstrations and actions of civil disobedience, the union proved its solidarity and strength. Men and women of every age, every color and every sexual preference marched and laughed and shouted their anger together. Without a strike, the union got a contract with major increases in benefits, major improvements in working conditions including worker committees at each hotel to resolve differences with management, and significant wage increases.

The history of this struggle and the cooperation and commitment of San Francisco hotel workers should serve as a model to discouraged workers and trade unionists across the country. With more commitment and a few good leaders we can effect change in our society.

More changes in the neighborhood -- looks like my favorite interior is going to be a restaurant again. The old Industrial Club at 16th and Guerrero has SEPT'S painted on the windows in gold. I haven't tried it yet, but the menu suggests a reasonably priced drop-in eatery.

In the continuing struggle to master my new computer and its software, I finally dropped in at PC TIME, 1875 Mission Street, and discovered a promising source of help and information. They offer low-cost classes and individual instruction on different types of software. They also offer on-premise rentals of personal computers and software at an hourly rate, and they sell hardware and software. Len Clements is the owner. You can call them at 621-3737.



Joan Klein teaching children's class at the Museum Art School, 333 Dolores. Winter Session begins January 12, 1987.

**ART AFTER EDEN: AN UN-NATURAL PERSPECTIVE** is still on exhibit at **SOUTHERN EXPOSURE GALLERY** in Project Artaud, 401 Alabama Street. This collection of paintings by six artists can be seen Wednesday-Sunday from 2-6 p.m.

**MODERN TIMES BOOKSTORE**, 968 Valencia, hosts "Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture" Sunday, November 16th at 7 p.m. Walter L. Williams presents "The Spirit and the Flesh: The American Indian Berdache and Male Society." This landmark study documents how tribal societies venerated

androgynous men as healers, shamans and seers. For information on other events at **MODERN TIMES** call 282-9246.

On Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m. **OLD WIVES TALES**, 1009 Valencia Street, presents **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON FEMINISM**, a talk by Charlotte Bunch and Roxanna Carrillo on the development of feminism in various regions over the past 15 years. Discussions will include the possibilities and problems with global exchanges and solidarity among women.

The photographic installation, "Oh! What Ravenous Eyes We Have!" by artists Mark Chambers, Mimi Plumb-Chambers, and Mark Durant will be on exhibit November 21 - December 21 at **EYE GALLERY**, 758 Valencia Street.

Although I wasn't able to attend, I heard very good reports about "Blood and Giggles", a part of Hyena Cabaret at **VIDEO FREE AMERICA**, 442 Shotwell.

**EL RIO**, on Mission just beyond Army Street, now has live music on Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons. Their Sunday afternoon parties have been well-known and greatly enjoyed for years. I like to go there just to play table shuffleboard which arouses wonderful memories of my formative years in the Midwest.

If you're tired of hanging out in the laundromat, check out **ROSE'S LAUNDRAMAT** at 534 Valencia Street. They'll wash and fold the laundry for you with one-day service at a very reasonable price.

In this month of Thanksgiving remember that you can focus your attention on all there is to be thankful for instead of the things we all find to complain about. Sincerely giving thanks each day will make your life much more positive, healthful and happy.

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## CONTRAS

Cont. from p.1

about Nicaragua, recruiting and training young people" (19 to 28 years old) with "an emphasis on personal contact" including on-the-street "tabling" to collect names, mailing addresses and phone numbers.

It came as no surprise that, even as we talked with the UNO official, a couple of corporate-looking CAUSA officials (of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, a devoutly anti-communist cult involved heavily in private Contra aid) rubbed shoulders with all the big contra honchos. 'CAUSA Moonies' can be seen nearly every day at the corner of 24th and Mission, engaged in precisely the activities projected by the UNO official for their campaign. The CAUSA official present, incidentally, was Robert J. Spitz, Director of Northern California CAUSA USA.

When asked why a campaign of such international scope was necessary, the UNO official responded, "Because it is difficult to fight against all the information that the youth are getting now. It is hard to live next to people with an entirely different ideology." He spoke repeatedly of a "new era", "the strategic importance of the Directorates", the "creation of solidarity groups", and "strengthening our base of support within the continental U.S."

For security reasons, we were told not to interview or photograph "Armando de los Cinco Mil Nombres", the man who had organized a counterintelligence 'internal front' while still working as a Sandinista official. He entered to a smattering of applause. Those in attendance seemed in awe.

Also present was Contra commander 'Commandante Aureliano', (his nom-de-guerre used "for security reasons"), dressed in chic combat fatigues. He was "a guerrilla commander fighting in the mountains, near Boaco. "I have 2000 men under my command," he boasted. How did he get here? "Calero brought us." Adolpho Calero? "Yes, and his brother Mario." How? By plane? We were interrupted at that moment by the young commandante's point man for nosey press people. "What difference it makes now? For security reasons we cannot say how," he said peering over at 'Aureliano'. "I came over wetback," he smiled wryly. "Yes," said the point man, "he came over wetback. You put that in your newspaper!" Do you have family in San Francisco? "My mother lives in the Mission," 'Aureliano' nodded. "I was born here. I don't even need a green card," he boasted. How were you recruited, and where? In the Mission? "I volunteered," he said patly. Here in the Mission? He nodded again as the point man pulled the contra commander away saying forcefully, "No more questions, no more questions."

Earlier in the evening I had spoken more casually with 'Aureliano', not yet knowing his line of work. I asked him a question I'd asked a dozen times before without receiving a straight answer. What will you do with \$100 million? He

immediately answered, "Anti-aircraft weapons. We need missiles, for the copters. When we have missiles, we will win. And let me tell you something. By next year, we will be in Managua."

The coalition of Contra groups at the event included FDN (northern fighting forces out of Honduras); ARDE (southern forces out of Costa Rica); Arturo Cruz' new group Accion Democratica; MDN (Movimiento Democrata Nicaraguense), and others. These groups are now all unified under the umbrella of UNO, which originated in Miami in 1983, at the outset of major lobbying for Contra aid.

Representatives of these groups, along with a plethora of small domestic reactionary splinter organizations, were attached to the Contra fundraiser, which lost more than \$300 according to event organizer Armando Estrada. They include:

1. Civilian Military Assistance (CMA), formerly owned by the CIA, operating now under contract only to avoid congressional scrutiny or restriction and public accountability. The CMA is involved primarily in air transport of arms and personnel. Key figures are Mario Calero (Adolpho's brother), and Walt Miller (one of the many former CIA operatives in the field).
2. Latin American Strategic Studies Institute (LASSI). Key figure: Catholic priest Thomas F. Dowling of San Francisco, former member of the Council of Inter-American Security, a hardline anti-communist group who



Father Thomas Dowling

photo by Mimi Rebozo

16th NOTE



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produced the infamous series of films entitled "Attack On The Americas", early 80's "sea-of-red-splashing-at-our-shores" -type shorties, with the intended impact of a driver's rehab gore film.

Moreover, Dowling, Calero, Cruz and Castillo were all involved in The Council of Inter American Security, closely associating Dowling with the Contras since at least 1983. A check with the archdiocese led to the discovery that Reverend Dowling doesn't spend much time at his home parish. Mr. Dowling has been seen at conferences, council meetings and Capitol Hill appearances all over the U.S., particularly Washington D.C., Atlanta, New York and Miami, not to mention timely visits to Central America. One can only speculate how much time Reverend Dowling has spent in the six aforementioned "concentration areas" spending more than ordinary amounts of time on his various "earthly duties".

Mrs. Lucia Sinicco was a 60ish woman who had "lived in the U.S. for the last 25 years, but she still has family living there. Some family," she emphasized. She was in attendance to "support the return of the country from Communists. I prefer that the U.S. Marines take over my country. That would be far better... faster than all this," she said motioning to the crowd "...but the Congress (would) just tie the hands of the Reagan (sic)." Mrs. Sinicco's daughter, Nidia, was the treasurer of the Contras' S.F. Regional Committee for UNO. It was on behalf of this committee that Mrs. Sinicco wrote the check to rent the Spanish Union Hall.

A final fact check call went to event organizer Armando Estrada, who lives in Miami. He had put on a similar event to the one at the Spanish Union Hall on Alemany Street, "but we had some 1500 people, about (a year and a half ago)." I had asked him about local recruitment, operations and offices he might know about, but he denied that any existed. I asked "What about Tony's Body Shop at 11th and Mission?" An UNO official mentioned Tony's Body Shop as a key meeting and organizing spot for this particular concentration area. He even suggested that they had printing equipment upstairs. Do you know anything about that?" Without denying anything

he asked pointedly, "Who told you? Who told you this?" I switched the subject slowly, jokingly telling him that I didn't want to get anyone into trouble. At length, he began to wax nostalgic about "how good things were before the Sandinistas." "It sounds as if you long for the days of Somoza. Is that possible?" I inquired. "If you tell me that Somoza could come back, I say bring him right away. Everybody would tell you that. Many of our group would tell you they prefer Somoza to the Sandinistas. 20 to 30 times more. If Somoza came back, I'd go fight with him against the Sandinistas right now. Hey, we could meet at Tony's, ha ha. If Somoza came back, I'd go fight with him right now."



photo by Mimi Rebozo

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## TASKFORCE REPORT ON MISSION CRIME WAVE

- by Candace Natvig

The Mission Task Force is a group of Mission neighborhood residents, business persons and representatives of various service organizations under the leadership of Special Assistant to the Mayor, Ralph Hurtado. Our task is to prepare recommendations to Mayor Feinstein regarding the future of the Mission. The major discussions revolve around: 1) planning (zoning and land use); 2) crime and vice; 3) recreation; and 4) neighborhood pride/identity.

This Mission Task Force is a young organization. Though in fact only a loosely-constituted body of interested citizens and invitees from the "City", we have, I think, succeeded in making one vital point to the Mayor so far: **that crime and vice are out of control in certain parts of the Mission--that we are, in the words of Ralph Hurtado, "losing the neighborhood."**

In response to statements from recreation directors, after-school programs, teachers, the principal of Horace Mann School, children, performing arts spaces, drug counsellors and individual home owners about the need for more effective enforcement of the law, Ralph called a Task Force Meeting to include Chief Jordan (new chief of San Francisco), Captain Lennon of the Mission Precinct, Captain Mike Pera - head of Vice and Lieutenants Joaquin Santos of drug enforcement and Dennis Martel of prostitution.

The leaders of the police department spoke articulately of their understanding of the priorities for their work in our neighborhood. They explained that "The Mission" is much larger by their definition, with boundaries being Duboce to Army and from the Top of Twin Peaks to the James Lick Freeway. (The area includes Noe Valley and the Castro.)

They emphasized that lack of manpower and pile-ups in the courts are obstacles to their success and that at times this is demoralizing to officers. Several projects were described. Captain Pera explained the current importance of undercover operations to cleaning up the Dolores Park area. Captain Lennon said that the order of priorities for police coverage in the Mission is: 1) Dolores Park; 2) Valencia St. Projects; 3) Army Street Project; 4) Mission Street between 16th - 20th. David Spero of the North Mission Association questioned the emphasis of Dolores Park over Mission Street.

By the current system of computerized calls, most units are at all times en route to some call or another and few units are patrolling consistently in designated areas. (At previous meetings several Task Force members questioned the wisdom of this system.) As to foot patrols on Mission St., I got conflicting reports when trying to check my facts by calling the Mission Precinct. Apparently they assign foot patrols to Mission Street between 16th and 20th according to need and the current availability of officers, with less emphasis being placed on the midnight to 8 AM shift. A task force member stated that many of her problems with hoodlums doing malicious mischief have been during these hours. Captain Lennon said that traffic problems take up much of the time of the beat patrol officers during 8AM to 12PM.

Ben Davies, wood artisan and Mission resident, reiterated the problems with prostitutes around 17th and Capp. Lieutenant Martel said that, of 40 recent arrests, there have been no convictions. At that point, it was mentioned that jail facilities in San Francisco are inadequate and thus many arrestees have to be released. Captain Jordan encouraged us to vote for State Proposition 54, a \$500,000,000 bond issue for acquiring and constructing state correctional facilities which, he said, would ease the problem in San Francisco. In addition, San Francisco itself is going to have to build additional facilities because the San Bruno facility is, according to a recent municipal grand jury report, literally falling down.

The police give an impression of sincerity and intelligence. They have an attitude that could be described as "we won't give up." They are clearly hampered by budgetary constraints and they are perhaps somewhat misguided in their priorities and in their understanding of what's really going down on the streets. Where citizens' groups have formed to

lobby and assist the police, such as around Dolores Park, they have proved responsive. They need more input and cooperation from citizens on all levels if they are to do their jobs well. The police encourage us to form neighborhood SAFE or similar systems of local cooperation against crime. We have to learn to make use of the resources of the police department so that we can do our part to let the system know what the need is.

It seemed to me, after the meeting as people talked in small groups, that contacts were being made that will lead to more communication between police and citizens. Let us see to it that these contacts are perpetuated.

(If you are interested in the MTF, write to Candace c/o the North Mission News.)

### sofia's

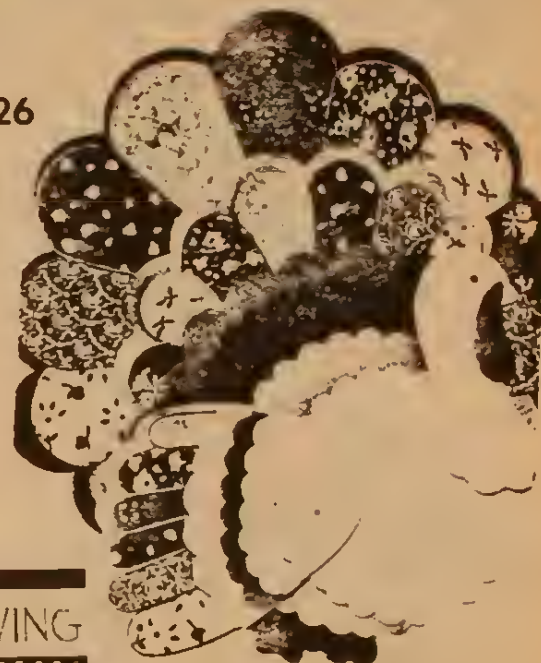
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## Tom Ferentz



## CYCLONE FENCE

It was dark out. I was walking home. I was thinking of passing by the Pay n' Pak to see if anything had changed. I was at the edge of SOMA, about to enter the Mission. As I was walking down 8th Street, between Bryant and Brannan, I noticed a number of acrylic paintings on wood that were attached to a cyclone fence.

It turned out I was entering this exhibition from the rear. When I arrived at the front, there was a sign to tell me what it was. It was called the Cyclone Gallery, an artist-in-residence project that had leaked out of the South of Market Cultural Center (SOMAR) on Brannan Street. It was coordinated by Joanne Poethig, and featured paintings by 12 artists.

SOMAR is not exactly in the South of Market area some would call SOMA. It is also not precisely in the Showplace Square, the Mission, nor Potrero Hill. It is at the portals, a kind of no-mans-land called MSOMA, PHILSOMA, SSQUSSOMA or something. At night, the area is pretty empty. Even homeless people don't stray there often. At night, this art exhibit is for no one.

By day, workers pass on their way for a tuna fish sandwich at the little restaurant across the street. This exhibit, then, is chiefly for people who work; or, more precisely, for people who take breaks from working. And for other transients.

The paintings were obviously produced for the show. They are on uniform pieces of wood, a bit larger than you... if you are of normal height. There are a variety of themes.

The piece I liked best was "Treasure" by a painter named John Quill Marquand. It was last in line so I saw it first. Marquand uses an almost-comic-book style to depict a bag lady who finds something in the trash. She picks through garbage, her shopping cart beside her, while people go about their business behind her. Outside her alley, the sky is filled with the colors of sunset above Victorian houses. This ambience, combined with her prominence in the frame, points out how accustomed we are to seeing someone rooting in the trash. It is an everyday activity, not unique, and this is what is captured by the artist.

The title, "Treasure", almost passed me by. When I noticed it, it brought my eye to a small tape cassette the bag lady had found and was holding in her hand. The title on the cassette read, "South Africa is Free". On the ground

lay a Time Magazine cover featuring Reagan as "Weasel of the Year".

On the other hand, it's nice that people make fun of the President in public places. On the other, it's kind of an easy butt to kick. This was more or less the case with the painting "Rambo Reagan", by Dearca, which shows Reagan standing in outer space surrounded by missiles. It makes its point, but is overstated and has been done too often.

Another high point of the show is Anita Hemmila's "Future Waste", which has a subtlety lacking in some of the other work. This painting of dogs and garbage cans is well-crafted and sensitive to the soft innocence of the dogs who prowl through the garbage, unaware of the waste being emitted by smokestacks whose cylindrical shapes blend harmoniously with the shapes of the garbage cans.

Rick Terry's "Maricons y Mariposas" (Sissies and Butterflies, according to my Spanish/English dictionary) is an image of death. Two figures are suspended on the canvas, the lower one bleeding. The blood runs off of the painting and onto the sidewalk, an incorporation of the site of this exhibit that is particularly striking. Few sights are more disturbing than blood on a sidewalk.

This show was a great idea and I hope Joanne Poethig and SOMAR keep it up.



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## Mga " Kuwento

### stories from the Philippines

Mga Kuwento is a multi-media presentation narrating the recent history of the Philippines through stories as told not by politicians, cardinals and press officers, but by ordinary Filipino people.

The show incorporates slides, taped interviews, original music and live storytelling which holds an important place in Filipino culture.

Slides were photographed in Manila and the countryside by photojournalist Jeanne Hallacy, recently returned from three years in the Philippines. Original music is composed by Jane Po, Joey Ayala and Joey Maliga. Traditional music from the tribal people of the Cordillera region is also highlighted.

The show which will feature scenes from before, during and after the February Revolution will open at the Eye Gallery, 1032 Valencia Street, San Francisco on November 7th and 8th. Additional performances will be held at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley on November 12th and Fort Mason, Building C, San Francisco on November 14th. For more information call 549-9375.

## BULLETINS

**CONGRATULATIONS** - to Sup. Willie Kennedy and members of the Black Leadership Forum for not buying the developers' bull. Supporters of Proposition M lobbied to exempt Executive Park, which will create blue-collar, minority-accessible jobs, but the Planning Commission in a patently partisan ploy, voted to delay decision until after election. Kennedy refused to exercise her option of pulling the measure off the ballot and some black leaders who opposed M were so pissed off at Q and D's exploitation of their community that they elected to change their position and support it.

**WHERE'D IT GO?** - A San Francisco Housing and Tenants' Council task force released a report documenting the loss of 17,000 housing units since 1975 through conversion to hotels and offices, fires and other means. The City's response was to point out the existence of about 15,000 illegal units... but they did not include the fact that most so-called "in-law" units were built in the Richmond and Sunset 30-50 years ago.

**BOO!** - The same SFHTC held a Halloween rally literally "unmasking" Sup. Bill Maher's anti-renter voting record and campaign contributions from the likes of Robert Imhoff, TRI Realty and other sleazy landlords whose names were scratched on the foreheads of Maher photographs like so many Marks Of The Beast and concealed by Lone Ranger type masks. They marched from the Board of Realtors to City Hall to serve the Supe a "three day notice", but Maher was nowhere to be seen. His staff said Bill was "out to lunch".

**BOB'S CORNER** - Imhoff has been keeping a low profile in the Mission since losing his real estate license and being ordered out of his offices (he's still there, Mr. Maher!). But his tenants at 250 Taylor argue that Bob's so-called "renovations" are a thinly-disguised eviction attempt and they'll be packing City Hall Room 282 on November 12 at 5 PM to give the slumlord his due. If you've read about Bob in the News and want to see him up close, here's the chance.

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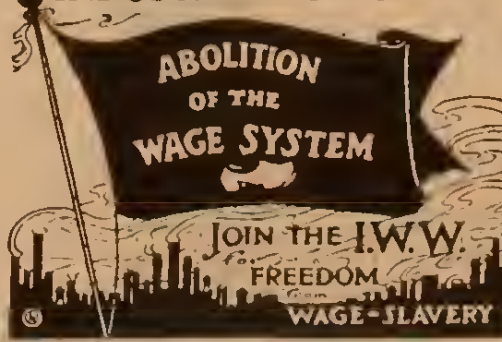
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# TENANT TIMES

Vol 7 No 5

Newsletter of the San Francisco Tenants Union

Nov & Dec 1986

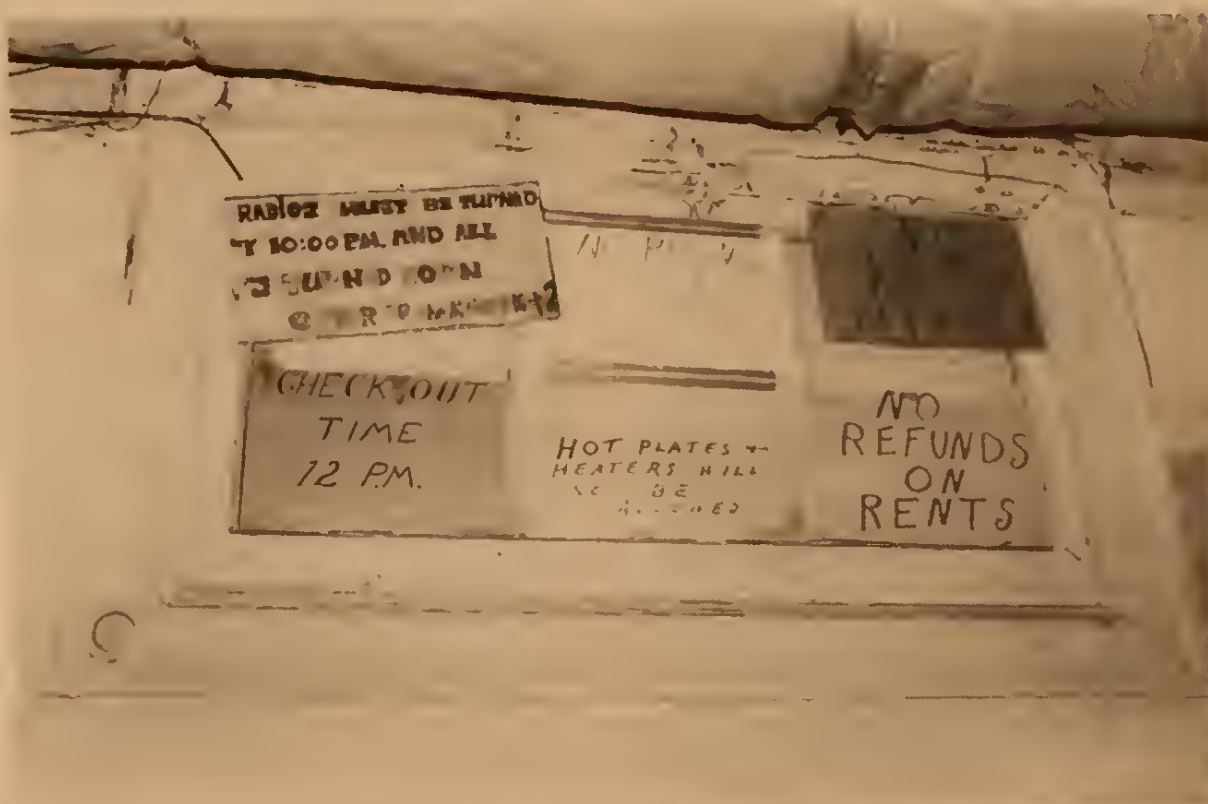
## THE RH SYNDROME: TACTICS ONE

by Jim Faye

Renting a room in a residential hotel is an act of desperation for thousands of people, the last stop before hitting the streets and public shelters. A 10' by 10' cubicle with the use of a common john and shower down the corridor is a far cry from the comfortable sanctity of a studio apartment. The cell-like nature of a room is enhanced by the bad attitude exhibited by many res managers toward their "guests". This is not to say that there aren't any well-operated res hotels or that managing one is a piece of cake. There are and it isn't. If anyone wishes to point out a few good hotels, let us know. And we always love to hear war stories from landlords.

Residential hotels are the last vestiges of "affordable housing" in this overpriced city. In 1979, City Hall acknowledged that the rapidly diminishing supply of hotel rooms had to be preserved from conversion to the far more lucrative tourist accommodations after an estimated 5200 units were lost in the prior 5 years. A law was passed (and later weakened) to prohibit the renting of rooms to transients (who pay daily rates) in lieu of tenants paying weekly or monthly. To legally convert, a landlord would have to pay for the replacement of the lost units; predictably landlords sought alternative methods to do what they wanted.

Officially, the Residential Hotel Ordinance works. A 1985 City Planning report paints a rosy picture balancing the need to maintain cheap housing with the equally important need to provide tourists with friendly rates. Unofficially, tenants in res hotels find themselves under intense pressure by management to move out of their modest lodgings in order to re-rent the rooms either to transients or to other desperate tenants able to pay a market rent of \$400 per month. In addition, thousands of rooms have been turned into "homeless hotels"--the ironic twist being that many of the homeless were displaced in order to open up these rooms. Although strikingly similar to what occurs in apartment houses and flats throughout SF, res hotel tenants are more likely to be subjected to harsher and uglier tactics by management.



Home sweet home, be it ever so regimented...These signs, posted above the front desk at the Entella Hotel, express the flavor of residential hotel living.

Witness the terrorist-like harassment waged against folks at the Crystal Hotel (130 Eddy) where an ongoing dispute around the issues of maintenance and security has erupted into violent assaults on tenants. The Tenants Association has issued whistles to its members as a means of alerting each other when threatened in the halls or their rooms. The most recent management actions include utility cutoffs and a mass service of eviction notices to members of the Tenants Association. The situation at the Crystal bears a frightening resemblance to the Thor Hotel (2084 Mission) where management broke the back of the tenants union in 1985, forcing many people to move out and sue for damages. Similar terror tactics were employed at the Dalt in 1979, the Delta in 1983 and the St. Moritz in 1986. Perhaps the most outrageous behavior is that of the SFPD who continually fail to use their authority to prevent such acts from reoccurring.

A less dramatic approach used against hotel tenants, but of equal seriousness, is the systematic refusal to make necessary repairs and to provide adequate maintenance of the common areas, especially needed for shared bathing facilities and toilets. Although a hotel may be cited by building and health inspectors, it is not uncommon to see conditions deteriorate for years before anything is corrected. The Soma Hotel (38 Washburn) has been cited since 1982. A Director's

Hearing last July was ignored by owner and manager; a 90-day order to repair was issued. The deadline has passed with no action by the landlord. However, the tenants have acted, organizing a union to preserve their low-cost homes and to bring the Soma up to code. Other hotel tenants have organized in order to protect their interests, most notably at the Swiss American (534 Broadway) in 1981 when the owners unsuccessfully attempted to evict everyone. In fighting back, tenants used the gamut of legal weapons available, including the rent strike repair & deduct and the lawsuit to ultimately win a three-year battle, culminating in the purchase of the hotel by a non-profit agency. The hotel has been rehabilitated and remains affordable to poor people.

Yet another tactic used to provoke renter unhappiness (and anger) is the sudden removal of services to which people have grown accustomed and the imposition of house rules designed to restrict the freedoms previously enjoyed by the residents. Services most commonly cutback include fresh linen; use of the lobby/kitchen/dining area; and general maintenance such as not stocking toilet paper or sweeping the halls. Oppressive rule changes (the legality of which depends on how they're imposed) include visitor/guest policies, designed to control who tenants may associate with; "pet rules" and "hotplate rules" to protect the tenants from themselves.

Continued Page 4





# Landlord, Neighbor, or Both?

From the tenant's viewpoint, owner-occupied buildings have one plus and many minuses. The presumed advantage is the accessibility of the landlord in case repairs are needed, though in reality this proximity is no guarantee that things will get fixed. On the negative side, tenants suffer from unwanted scrutiny, possible harassment, and a lack of rent control.

In San Francisco, owner-occupied buildings in which the resident/landlord owns at least 50% interest, and which have four units or less, are exempt from rent controls. This means that evictions need no "just cause", and that the sky's the limit for rent raises. If that weren't bad enough, the tenant must also endure the watchful eye of their landlord, who may not approve of their hours, guests, or behavior.

Some households are split into people on the rental agreement ("master tenants"), and people who aren't (subtenants). In these situations, the subtenants bear an extra onus. The landlord may refuse to deal with them entirely on the grounds that no business relation exists between them. While this is technically true, it's an attitude which ignores the reality of being neighbors, and is likely to infuriate the subtenant, who feels their very existence invalidated. It also makes the master tenant an unwilling go-between.

This dilemma of living in the same building with one's landlord was illustrated by an incident which happened recently. Early one Sunday morning my housemate Lapin was woken up by the mechanical drumtrack of our landlord's stereo below. He got out of bed and called downstairs on the telephone. Landlord A answered, and Lapin asked him to tell landlord B that the music was too loud. Landlord A refused, said he was busy, and hung up.

Involuntary curses poured forth from Lapin and woke up the rest of the household. Though we were as unhappy as him to be aroused so early on a Sunday, we swiftly rallied to his support when we learned what had happened. Lapin ran downstairs like a gladiator to the ring, and we followed him timidly in our bathrobes.

The sensible acquiescence which normally governed our relationship with the landlord was gone. Lapin had suffered the kind of insult which makes mincemeat of rational behavior. He pounded ferociously on the landlord's front door until it was answered by the man who had hung up on him. A loud discussion ensued, and ended with the landlord shutting his door in Lapin's face.

Lapin's lover tried another tactic. She knocked lightly on the door, and when the landlord answered she spoke

with the reasoned tones of an objective third party. This discussion ended as unproductively as the first however, so I decided to try my hand at negotiation.

My strategy was slightly different. I invoked the police state, and threatened to call the cops if we didn't get some noise compliance soon. His response was to remind me that I wasn't on the lease, and that therefore he was not obligated to deal with me. I'm still unclear how this related to the issue of disturbing the peace, but my confusion went unexpressed since I was now staring at a shut door.

By this time the slow-burning outrage of my other housemate was ignited and she stepped assertively up to the door. Though we had struck out three times, she was going to bat cleanup anyway. When the landlord answered her knock she said "I'm on the lease-- you'll have to talk to me." He didn't argue, and ten minutes later the crisis was resolved.

These days the landlord and I don't have much to say to each other. I asked him for a key to our storage area and he gave me the same line about wanting to deal with me through the master tenant. We call him dirty names behind his back (making sure the windows are shut when we do), and try to avoid him if possible. Fortunately the folks in my household like each other so much that I'm more than adequately compensated for the annoyance of living in an owner-occupied building.

GRANT

## State of the Union

Members sometimes ask me, how is the TU run? We evidently project an amorphous image, like some ghost ship slipping through the San Francisco fog at night, navigated by unseen sailors. Allow me to burn through this haze and reveal the deckhands at work.

Lounging on the deck you will find our general membership. They've paid their fare and they expect services in return. It's their dues that keep this boat afloat, and in exchange they receive a handbook, free counseling, this newsletter, and the right to collectively chart the course of the vessel. All counselors, organizers, and office staff come from the ranks of our membership, not as a result of privilege or seniority, but on the basis of individual initiative and personal commitment.

Serving this membership is the volunteer staff of counselors, without whom we would have run aground long ago. Their dedication and know-how make us the best low-cost tenant counseling service in the City. Any member can become a counselor by attending our four-part workshop; the next one will take place in the Spring of 1987.

The business committee is composed of members who want a hand in the decision-making process and aren't afraid to slog through the tedium of day-to-day policy issues to get at the exciting business of running a progressive organization like the TU. We work collectively, use consensus, and encourage the participation of all members. Right now we're composed of about six people, and we meet every other Monday at 5:30 p.m. If you're interested, even if it's just to sit in and observe, call the office to find out when the next meeting is.

Then there's the office manager, hired by the business committee to oversee the daily operations of the TU. My job was recently expanded to include not only tasks like correspondence, bookkeeping, and plant watering, but editing the newsletter and coordinating volunteers as well. I'm now here four days a week, and this consistent presence in the office has helped our effectiveness tremendously.

Our recent accomplishments include: the release of our long-awaited (too long-awaited) Tenant's Rights Handbook; the acquisition of a Compaq computer, a tool whose potential we've only begun to tap; the completion of our new brochure; and the "institutionalization" of our new office system, which has put our finances firmly in the black by restricting phone counseling to members only and requiring a small donation from our non-member walk-in clients.

We recently hired two new organizers. Jim Faye is now our head organizer. He is heading up the organizing committee as well as doing his share of field work. Linda Frazho was hired with the grant money we got from Vanguard Foundation to organized single mother tenants and residential hotels. She is a single mother herself and just completed our most recent series of counselor training workshops.

That series of workshops produced a hot new crop of seven tenant counselors. Congratulations to Spike, Paul Donahue, Andree Lagerstedt, Daniel Summaria, Patti Newler, Teri Hillman, and the aforementioned Linda Frazho for completing the training. They are now sitting in on counseling shifts with more experienced counselors and will soon, we hope, be taking on shifts of their own. This will enable us to be open more hours, and perhaps double up on the busy shifts.

In spite of these accomplishments, our fundraising, legislative and direct action committees are all currently laying fallow, waiting for new blood to step in with the creative energy needed to resurrect them. The newsletter should be the work of a dozen people, not the three or four who put this one together.

Continued Page 3



In short, the TU is stable, healthy, and ready to expand. It needs your energy as well as your member dues to accomplish what it's capable of doing. Let's go! GRANT

## And Baby Makes Three (Day Notice That is)

On the 23rd of October, 1986, Tenant Union members Mr. and Mrs. Karl Bausler had a baby girl by the name of Kaitlyn Bausler. The next day, October 24th, they received a 3-day eviction notice from attorneys Shamiyeh and Dorsett, who represented their landlord, Mr. Charles O'Donnell. The grounds for eviction? You guessed it-- they were in violation of a covenant which supposedly prohibited more than one person in the unit.

Fortunately, a careful reading of their rental agreement shows that no such covenant exists. O'Donnell's chances of winning an unlawful detainer suit are slim. This does not, however, disqualify him from winning the "Scrooge of the Month Award." New parents have enough to think about without worrying about evictions as well. GRANT

## Eviction Hearing

Robert Imhoff, owner of Landmark Realty and landlord of over 100 buildings in San Francisco is attempting to evict all of his tenants at 250 Taylor Street on the grounds that the building is in need of substantial rehabilitation. The tenants, many of whom are elderly or disabled and who have lived in the building for several years, are fighting their eviction. The tenants believe that substantial renovation is not necessary and is being used solely as a tactic to get them out of the building.

A hearing will be held on November 12th at 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Permit Appeals, City Hall Room 282 on the tenants request to stop their eviction. A large turnout will obviously help their cause. Please plan to attend this event in support of the tenants. Contact Randy Shaw at 771-9850 for further info.

## Investco vs. Free Speech

The following article was written by Bill O'Brien for the Oakland Express. It's a story about Tenant Union member Daniel Summaria and his former housemates in Oakland, and what happened to them when they fought an unjust rent increase. Although the dispute described occurred in Oakland, the free speech issues involved are relevant to all tenants. The story also helps answer the question, "Are tenant activists born or made by circumstance?"

EDITOR

Elwood Avenue is a pretty typical street in Oakland's Grand Lake District: it climbs a steep hillside, lined on both sides with modest single family homes and small multi-unit dwellings. And 452 Elwood, a pinkish beige two-story apartment building just a few doors up from Grand Avenue, fits right in.

The story of what happened to three of the building's tenants, Sheila Goldmacher, Linette Reilly, and Daniel Summaria, is also, in many ways, not unusual. It goes something like this: a landlord who has owned a piece of property for many years decides to sell. He gets a good price from an investment partnership or a property management company. The new owners, citing high mortgage costs, then drastically raise rents.

At this point the tenants usually either pay up or quickly seek housing elsewhere. Not so the folks at 452 Elwood. The three say that they got along quite well with Harry Wannamaker, the previous owner. Wannamaker kept the rents low, and in return the tenants helped out with minor maintenance and cleaning tasks. Then last year Wannamaker, who is in his eighties, decided to retire from the landlording business and started showing the building to potential buyers. In January he completed the sale.



A couple of weeks later the tenants all got letters from Investco, a nearby real estate brokerage, informing them that the rents for their one bedroom apartments were being raised. Goldmacher's went from \$275 to \$516. Summaria and Reilly both got increases of 86 percent, from \$300 to \$560.

The tenants say that they received less than the required thirty days notice for the rent hikes, so they attempted to pay their next month's rent at the old rates. The company refused to take their checks, and in April all three were hit with eviction notices.

All the tenants were upset by the rent hikes, but Summaria was particularly outraged. He had moved in just six months earlier, and had cleaned and repainted the entire apartment. In return, he says, the previous landlord had agreed not to raise his rent for at least one year. Summaria called Anne Wu, one of the new owners, and tried to negotiate. After several attempts (he was also withholding his rent payments) he got the eviction notice. One more call to the owner--"She got nasty. I got angry. When

I got off the phone that afternoon I got really angry. I started putting signs in the window saying I'd gotten this outrageous rent increase." The signs, which were printed in foot high letters, read "Halt Greed," "86% Increase in 6 Months," "Save Oakland-Rent Control Now," and "Rent Slave of Investco."

Later that afternoon Goldmacher and Reilly came home and saw what Summaria had done. Signs went up in their windows too. Goldmacher says the new landlords reminded her of America's turn-of-the-century capitalists, so she wrote "Investco--Oakland's Robber Barons." Reilly added "Working But Homeless--It Can Happen To You." They also had "Rent Slave" T-shirts printed up.

Summaria says that he hoped to pressure the new landlords into a compromise by putting the signs up. After all, Investco's headquarters are located right around the corner on Grand Avenue and the signs were clearly visible from their office windows. The real estate company took a different and surprising action, however. They sued.

"After the signs had been up for about a month," recalls Summaria, "I was sitting here talking with Linette and there was a knock on the door. I got this thing suing me for interference with business, and defamation." The tenants' response? "We marched right down to Linette's apartment, took down a sign that said 'Rent Board Fraud' and put one up that said 'Sued for Free Speech.'"

All four of the building's tenants were sued, including one who hadn't even put any signs up. Investco alleges that the tenants' action disrupted the company's business, in part because anyone coming to their offices would see the signs and be discouraged from doing business there. The complaint says that Investco has suffered damages including "lost profits, additional expenses, loss of reputation, and emotional distress." Furthermore it states that the tenants were "motivated by a desire to oppress, harass, defraud, and injure the company." Investco also asked the court to take down the signs and stop "publishing, communicating, picketing," or doing anything else that would deter someone from doing business with the firm.

The company says that it's any innocent victim of a smear campaign, claiming that it neither owns nor manages 452 Elwood. "Investco has no other role than in the sale of the property," says company attorney George Ong. "The real estate office found the property and handled the transaction."

The tenants say that all correspondence, such as the notification of rent increases, was sent on Investco stationery, and that they were told to

Continued Page 4



## Free Speech

contact Anne Wu at Investco if they had any questions. According to Ong, two of the buyers work out of the company offices, and were allowed to use Investco stationery.

Ong says the signs are "totally out of place. The least they could have done was confront the owners, or Investco, who could have told them why it was necessary (to raise the rents) and that they could go to the Rent Board."

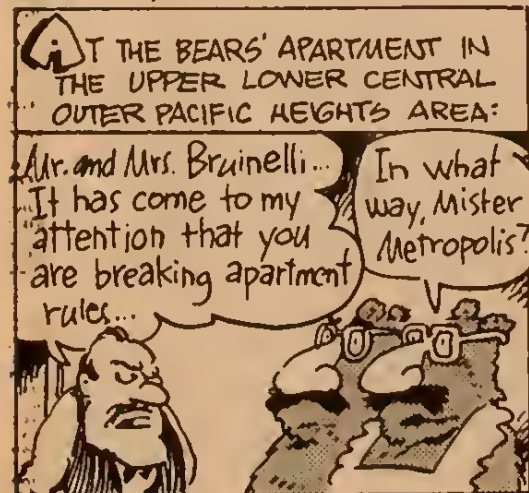
The tenants have filed a countersuit, charging that Investco's original lawsuit was illegal. Zona Sage, one of the lawyers representing the tenants, calls Investco's lawsuit "ridiculous." She claims that Investco was trying to pressure the tenants into moving out "so that they can get on with the business of raising rents." Sage also defends the signs. Since Investco sent out the notices and represented the owners, she says, "they're not irrelevant parties. The tenants aren't saying anything untrue, and the truth is a defense in a defamation suit."

According to Sage the effect of Investco's action could be not only to "chill the expression of First Amendment freedoms, but also to chill the expression of any exercise of rights under the rent arbitration laws of Oakland."

The story of 452 Elwood doesn't have a happy ending, at least not for the tenants. All three have moved out: Goldmacher in April, Reilly in June, and Summaria at the end of July. Goldmacher and Reilly both reached out of court settlements with the landlords regarding their back rent. Summaria lost a court judgement, and may have to pay several thousand dollars in addition to the money he's already spent on attorney fees and court costs. He says he would have tried to hold out longer, "but I ran out of gas, emotionally and financially," a comment echoed by Goldmacher, who said, "I just wanted to get my life back in order again." All three tenants are continuing their freedom of speech case against the landlords.



**FARLEY**/Phil Frank



## NEWSCLIPS

**S.F. CHRONICLE:** "Animal lovers went to bat for a handicapped widow who can't afford to pay a tenant fee needed to keep a kitten she found."

'I call him Lucky,' 79-year-old Bertha Jenkinson said of her pet. 'He's lucky to have me and I'm lucky to have him.' At first the feisty Jenkinson, a nine-year resident of the building, was told no pets were allowed, but she cited the law and management came back with a demand for a \$300 pet security deposit.

The retired librarian and children's book editor, who had polio as a child, said it is 'outrageous' that management is asking for \$300. 'My rent has gone up to \$211 for one room, and now I'm so low on funds I would resent giving them \$100,' she said.

Although many residents supported Jenkinson, four women objected because they are allergic to cats.

### TACTICS

Tenants at the Entella Hotel have petitioned the RentBoard for a reduction in rent to compensate them for services withdrawn by management and a decision is expected soon. The Crystal Hotel Tenants won a 40% rent reduction through the Rent Board earlier this year.

### HOTEL ORGANIZING

The Tenants Union begins a new project this month thanks to a grant from Vanguard Foundation. We will organize tenant groups in res hotels in the Mission and South of Market. If you live in a hotel which is experiencing problems like the ones discussed above, please come into our office. We want to talk with you.

The TENANT TIMES is published every other month by the San Francisco Tenants Union. We welcome submissions of articles, letters, artwork, and photos, both from our members and the general public. Opinion pieces do not necessarily reflect the views of everyone in the TU. Please send submissions to the SFTU, 558 Capp Street, SF, CA, 94110, attention Editor.

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PHOTOS: David Nesbet

## Join the SFTU

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Members receive a subscription to this newsletter. You'll also get our Tenants Rights Handbook, a resource which will swiftly turn you into a tenant counselor of sorts in the eyes of your friends and neighbors.

Beyond the obvious practical benefits of joining the TU, members also become part of a growing and vocal constituency committed to saving affordable housing in San Francisco's neighborhoods. Lower income tenants are being price out of San Francisco, a trend which can only be stopped by an informed and active coalition of tenants.

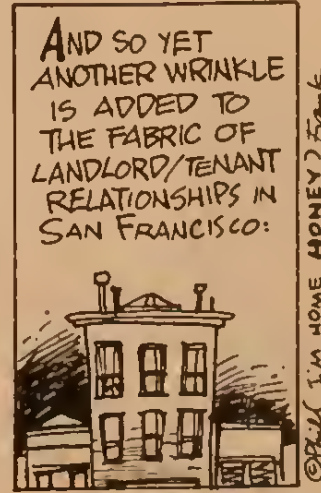
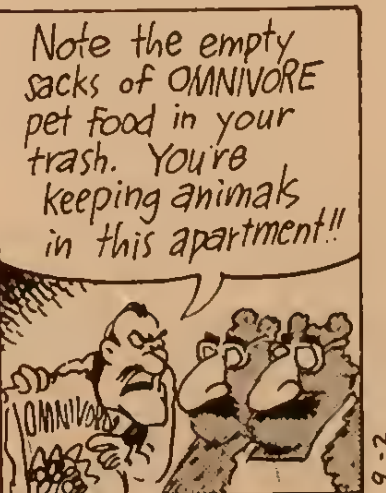
If you wish to join the TU, please fill out the form below and mail it in with a check or money order to the SFTU at 558 Capp Street, S.F., CA, 94110. When we receive your application, we'll send you the members-only phone number and our Handbook.

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AIDS HEALING ALLIANCE/SAN FRANCISCO

- by Misha Cohen, O.M.D., C.A.

A new healing organization dedicated to the dissemination of information about alternative/natural forms of therapy has begun meeting and working in San Francisco. The new organization, known as AIDS Healing Alliance (AHA), was begun through several members of the community (practitioners and people diagnosed with AIDS) placing pressure upon City Hall and asking for a forum to meet.

James Baker, aide to Harry Britt, has been instrumental in bringing the supervisors into this process. Harry Britt is taking an active role in supporting and helping the organization to move forward at this point and we expect that several other supervisors will support the goals of the Alliance.

AHA's first goal is to disseminate information about alternative therapies to people in San Francisco, particularly people diagnosed with AIDS/ARC and those at risk. It is important that this information go out to all the communities at risk, not only gay men. If there are people reading this article who are working especially in black and Latino communities where more dissemination of information is desperately needed, please contact the Alliance for more information.

The second goal is to gather data about people diagnosed with AIDS and ARC who are doing well. There is quite a large number of people in San Francisco and around the country who are beating the odds, many people diagnosed with AIDS who are doing well four or five years after diagnosis and many people with ARC who are not going on to get AIDS and who are feeling well. Right now data is being gathered about the quality of life and level of wellness as well as statistical data on infections and bloodwork in a group of people who are using alternative therapies as their primary or only treatments.

In November, there will be a forum including several people with AIDS who have been alive and well for over two

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Lecture: Thursday, December 4, 8 pm.

Additional lecture: at U.C. Davis: Wednesday, November 19, 5 pm

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years and who will speak about their experiences and their self-healing. The event will be held on November 19. However, no place has been set as of publication, so please call the Alliance or look for leaflets in the neighborhoods if you would like to attend.

The third goal is to raise enough money to set up a phone bank to disseminate information on alternative therapies. Another long term goal is helping people who cannot get money from any other source to afford alternative therapies.

The Alliance has been meeting every other Monday at City Hall in the Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room. All members of the public are invited to these meetings to find out about continuing work and to give input and feedback to various proposals. The next meeting will be held at noon on November 10.

In order to get in touch with the AIDS Healing Alliance in San Francisco, please call 626-1183 and leave a message. Someone will be in touch with you as soon as possible. The mailing address is P.O. Box 411421, S.F., CA 94141-1421.

Next month: A series of individual substances to enhance the immune system will begin. Thanks for your patience. Misha.

### AIDS BENEFIT

On Saturday night November 15, a benefit house party will be held for the San Francisco AIDS Alternative Healing Project. Funds raised will go to help with operating expenses of the phone referral service and the mailing of information on alternative therapies. A portion of the proceeds will go to the scholarship fund for people diagnosed with AIDS set up by the SFAAHP for the Comprehensive Program for People Diagnosed With AIDS/ARC. A sliding scale donation of \$6 to \$50 is requested at the door. The party begins at 7:30 and lasts until 12:30. There will be lots of dancing, food, refreshments and more. For more information, please call Dan at 864-1551.

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Bay Area independent filmmaking at its most passionate, irreverent and humorous will be on show when the second annual Film Arts Festival plays the **ROXIE CINEMA** November 7-9. One of the few festivals produced by a filmmakers' organization, Film Arts Foundation, the festival is the only one devoted entirely to the Bay Area's many film and video artists. The festival's pedigree shows in its unconventional exhibition policies: 34-plus works are arranged in eight thematic programs to accommodate short and odd-length pieces with longer ones; rarely-seen older works are included with premieres; and film and video are mixed in the same programs. An unusually large number of filmmakers can be expected to attend; there will be formal and informal discussions, and a two-hour open screening where anything goes. The open screening will be Friday, November 7, 11 p.m. and will consist of short works submitted on a first-come basis the previous Friday. For full program information call 552-8760.

One of the films to be shown, "Grease", shot in Cleveland and Iowa City by Chuck Houdina in 1974 records such time honored 'greaser' pasttimes as trying to pick up a girl in an alley, trying to get under the angora sweater of a beautiful gum chewing blonde with ratted hair, getting your head kicked in in the lavatory, with helpful hints on the fine art of racial persecution from a swaggering perpetrator included.

Within the first five minutes of watching this movie, a sinking embarrassed feeling comes over you as you realize that these people are for real. Only the press release reveals that these people are actors who had grown up in urban centers like Collinwood (Cleveland's east side hotbed of racial tension and juvenile delinquency). Working without the kind of carefully crafted script one would then presume they must have been supplied with, these actors were asked to improvise on a set of situations, using their personal experience for material. The results are often hilarious and always thoroughly authentic.



## AMUSEMENTS

### RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PAST

Once in a while, two or three old-timers will get together and reminisce, discussing events and places of the past; often re-examining long-forgotten personal experiences. Even the times before they were born, that they've heard their parents and grandparents describe, can enter into the conversation, re-awakening some very old memories of people and events one hundred and more years past.

In this age of electronic amusements in the home, people no longer communicate with one another; giving over a great deal of their attention, instead, to the radio or television set. They lose the familiarity and interaction of the family. When I was young, these serious generation gaps did not exist because we all knew and respected each other. In those days, if we wanted some out-of-the-ordinary amusement, we went out of the home together, as a family, to attend an event or some other attraction; even, perhaps, enjoying one evening a week at the theater. Board games and card games were common indoor pastimes, but there were any number of things that a family could do together outside the home. A Sunday afternoon might be spent watching a baseball game at Recreation Park on Valencia Street, or having a picnic and some softball out in Golden Gate Park.

Here in the Mission, outdoor entertainment goes way back to the "Old Mission" days. In those times, horse racing (a competition between families), bull and bear fights, cock fighting, etc., were the pleasures of the day. When the Mission District started to form into the community as we know it today, horse racing became more organized and George Treat (who got a street named after him) opened the Pioneer Raceway near Mission Dolores. Later on, we had the Union Track further out and near "The Willows" amusement park which was just beyond 18th and Mission-South Van Ness. This was from 125 to 135 years ago, before any streets were laid out here. Afterward, horse racing moved out to the Bay District Racing Association Track at Second Avenue and Fulton Street, and then finally, to the Ingleside Racetrack; the last one in the City, I believe.

The willow trees along the old Dolores creek gave that playground its name. It was the first real family resort-park in the City. (The earlier Russ Gardens, down by Russ Street, attracted a pretty rough crowd.) The Willows had a theater where the wonderful Lotta Crabtree danced and Irish Joe Murphy put on his minstrel act. Around and under the weeping willows was an open-air restaurant and outdoor pavilion for "Moonlight dancing".

It was all very nice for its time, but the grandest of them all was Woodward's Gardens, between Mission and

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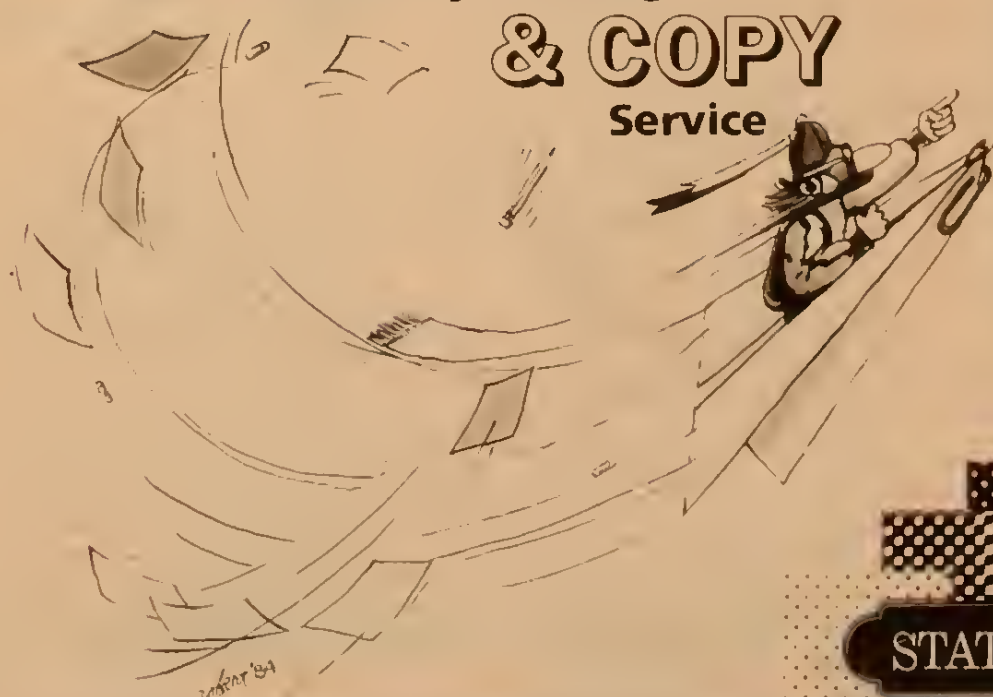
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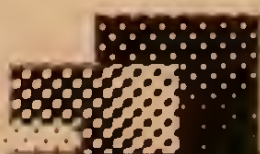
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Valencia, 13th to 15th streets. Robert Woodward started this wonderful 19th century Disneyland in 1865 and it enjoyed 25 years of popularity. Unlike Russ Gardens, which burned, or The Willows, which was flooded out in the heavy winter of 1862, Woodward's Gardens died a natural death as Golden Gate Park grew and matured; and, of course, had no admission gate!

In the beginning of this story I was talking about old timers and the recollections we swap whenever we chance to meet. One day recently we started to talk about all the theaters that used to be in the Mission and its satellite districts. Through the course of conversation, we all came to agree on one fact: The Mission had, and still has, more theaters than any other area of the City! And these various show houses were, and still are, far more diversified than their counterparts in other sections of town. Here we can see any kind of motion picture, amusing or informative, and all types of stage productions from mime to drama to musical.

I think that I attended most of them at one time or another, and I guess my friends did too. We began trying to out-do one another by remembering all the little movie theaters out around the fringe of the Mission. Somebody remarked that the Rio Rita was on Church near 28th Street and later became the Lux. Boy, this would be hard to beat!

"How about the Diamond or the Cortland?"

"Or maybe the Gaiety Theater on 16th Street near Valencia?"

We all agreed that these were, indeed, tiny show houses as were the Opal and the Shamrock, also on 16th, but closer to the Mission.

"Don't forget the Victoria, on the other side of Mission," someone said. "This must be one of the oldest theaters in the Mission, and it's still in operation!"

Then I sprung my surprise!

"Does anyone remember the Palmer Theater up on 24th Street? No?" said I. "Well, back in the 30's it moved around the corner and became the Noe!"

I used to live close by and went there almost every Friday night. But, one Friday night I was not there; and that was the night they called my "Lucky number"! I missed winning a \$900 jackpot that night and have been kicking myself ever since.

Now that our attention was on 24th Street, the York Theater was mentioned. In the 1930's the name was changed to the Roosevelt, but now, once again, it is the York. Then someone surprised us by remembering the old Photoplay Theater, up in the next block from the York, closer to Folsom Street. It must have been so small that it had escaped me. I couldn't remember it, so in order to save face, I tossed the Isis Theater into the ring. That got 'em! This little, tiny place was on Mission, just past 21st Street.

"Oh yeah?" said they, "Then how about the Real Art Theater near 22nd? It was renamed 'The Grand', but remained small." We all laughed. (Today, the Grand is in a different location, up the street.)

We had many laughs that day as we went up and down Mission Street remembering the many good movie houses, all the way from the El Capitan to the Excelsior; or even the Amazon, around on Geneva Avenue.

I was asked what my favorite theaters were. After some thought I replied that I liked the Majestic (now, the Tower) or the Lyceum; out near 30th Street, but the best of all was the old Wigwam (now, Cine Latino) across from the New Mission.

Back in the very early days, when motion pictures were a novelty, they were shown between the acts in vaudeville theaters. Gradually, over the years, vaudeville disappeared and movies took over. I think that the Wigwam was just about the last of the vaudeville houses in this City. Here, even well into the 1930's, you could still see the old 'Chorus Girl Routines' and old-fashioned comical skits. Unlike the 'Strip-tease' theaters, they were kept clean. I like to remember Tom Kelly, "The Irish Nightingale of the Mission". He was very popular out here.

On certain nights they used to give prizes to whomever could tell the tallest story, and sometimes they had "Country Style Grocery Night" when free groceries were given out. These were the sort of programs which drew the audience into the act and made each one of us feel we were part of it; and that, of course, made it more fun!

Vaudeville shows are remembered by some of us with nostalgia. As for me, they were the best form of amusement enjoyed outside of the home.

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- Que Barbara

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Look out for CAUSA people along our slice of the Mission. They want more than your mailing address; they want your soul... in other words they are MOONIES. Suggestions on how to get them off the street? Perhaps they could be pushed neatly through the hole in the ozone layer scientists have just discovered above us, as reported in the Chronicle.

So, where does 24th Street go after it passes the flower truck across from Paco's Tacos that sells serrano chile plants for \$2? Last month, all side streets met at Casa Nicaragua for the triumphant reception of the winning Nicaraguan baseball team who played against CAL. That night everything on the street seemed to collaborate to give a resounding applause for the players... the open vegetable stands were bathed in even brighter lights the color of Sunkist orange juice. Even the drunk couple collaborating on their own dark bottle of something came out of their recessed corner to peek into Casa and the men, single and in small groups, held off on their whispering rituals for each muchacha passing to ask why Casa was spilling out onto the street... I still passed up the glorious roses someone offered me though, always suspicious of the religious group at the end of the stem.

By the way, was the poster done in honor of the Nica jugadores also done in extreme haste? Or was the artist's conception of Nicaraguan baseball players that they are all old and fat with dislocated right shoulders, teeny feet--and I'm not talking impressionistic, I'm talking figurative--with gaping rotten mouths like those of vampires. Don't autograph that one for me! Anatomy classes in the Mission anyone? I don't think it's only a question of faulty anatomy in the posters coming out of Third Wave Dance Studio. Is it really time for Social Realism, boys? Is fascism really just a few short steps around the corner? Your women look like men ready for marching... with haughty contemptuous faces and pig noses... and your men look like insects. If you really want to say something with this, go George Cross all the way... Hey, the Mission is not the dumping ground for bad art.

## THE MUSEUM



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What's happening for kids around here para los ninos de la Mision? On Saturday, October 4, the children's festival at SFUSD never really got off the ground, although there was one payasa and some sunlight... Suggestions for better children's events?... cumin that I was still happily savoring the next day. Heavy but good!

We hope nothing happens to the peregrine blue store front on 24th, with its unique stock...

Beginning October 31 all roads will lead to Galeria de la Raza, with their Dia de los Muertos Celebracion. For last year's, you needed a camera, a flash and two or three rolls of film to catch all the visuals... Also, there will be a benefit dance for the Salvadorean Teacher Literacy campaign at Cesar's on November 16. For info call 861-2121. Cine Accion is showcasing local Latino talent in its local producers show. For film screening times call 282-3069.




Two hot items which came to me over morning coffee, from a friend over her morning coffee... There is a lone gangster policia giving out \$40 and \$90 parking violations on Linda Street off 18th... even the Mission Street Station is disavowing this wretch's technique. "Our usual policy is not to give out double tickets...", which is what the cop on Linda is doing with regularity.

**HOT HOT ITEM:** Look out for the \$5 Rhumba Sundays at Capp Street Center, featuring an incredible Rhumba dancer, Jose Luis. For info, call 552-2178.

October offered an incredible diversity of evening events to choose from... let's have more of the same! El Encuentro de Canto Popular: Musica buena, but better MCs. The pit at 16th and Valencia was alive with music and Contraband dancers dancing around the junkies who make the pit their home... and activist Tony Ryan's back-from-Cuba party and Artrance at Third Wave advertised with that awful poster, but the dancers were great. Roger! Blanche Brown! Alonso King! The best deserve better representation. And art is not a trance, es mas bien una calabaza at the corner of 24th and La Mision.

Unions are made and dissolved within our ken... one such not likely to dissolve soon was made over the weekend to freely flowing Spanish champagne and DJ music throughout Saturday afternoon - between Tato, director of La Posada, innivative Mission in-patient treatment center, and Darlene his longtime love...

Restaurants open and close hereabouts with the same frequency it seems... the recently opened Peruvian restaurant on Mission and 25th across from the furniture store has great tamales peruanos and big dishes of "rocoto" -- their salsa piquante, also a wide area for dancing and valsas Peruana on cassette. Miriam's on Valencia and 16th serves some heavy Bolivian food, a fricassee spiced with

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# SICK-A-MORE

- by Bill E. Badd

You people who come up to me asking me and complaining about the conditions surrounding Sycamore Alley next to Clarion Alley right here in the heart of Beat Street & Hopeless Avenue, have I got something for you. First of all when you go home tonight after having to venture anywhere near Sick-A-More Alley near 18th Street, take off your shoes and hang them out on the clothes line and spray them down with Hexol and Raid. Check and see if you still have your wallet. Sick-A-More and Mission to Sick-A-More and Valencia is a swamp of such muck and mire that the magic wand of Mother Teresa would turn around and bite her on the behind.

We used to rob purses there when I was about 15. The same crap still goes on as of this writing. The cops have the area labeled as "beat 41". It's got its own patrol code name because it's that rank. Now a lot of you Baddsters and Baddettes out there know the score, of Sick-A-More (hey, I'm a poet) and want my resolution to the problem at hand. Well here it is. Evacuate all the 10 yrs. of age and unders, then go from one end of Sick-A-More to the other inside a mobile military water cannon mounted on a half-track and gush out the entire area. Through widows, garage doors, hiding places and street corners followed up by big concrete construction sand blasters and then when the ammonia settles, the decent people could move back in. A police ranger that I know said to me a few years ago that they're going to clean it up. Well if they want to, I'll lend them a gallon of ammonia.

Could you imagine breeding your kids in Sick-A-More alley amidst nuthouse throwaways all pumped-up full of anti-psychotic and mental disease drugs like Thorazine, Prolixin, Cogentin and all that other state-issued crap, sharing the same jug of sweet Lucy with shiny and brown-stained grimy-faced winos who follow them when they get their SSI checks. To all you curs out there... Sycamore is 'NO GO'. Unless of course you're a masochist.



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### DERELICT POEM (for Felicia)

- 1 Jake Smith, origins unknown,  
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hand beseeches passerby  
and a croaked out "Sir" from a kisser  
scarred by a screwtop bottle of white  
night after night  
to stave off cold and the loneliness  
a fuzzworm blanket can't shake.
- 2 He carts his life in paperbags  
all the torn up magazines  
he can muster  
not to read but to hold  
'cause he don't got much else  
between the pages he slips  
the strips and scraps  
of journal entries he used to scratch  
before the street erased him  
before he lost his stub of lead
- 3 Jake Smith, origins unknown,  
headed here  
and maybe to the liquor store  
if you could spare the man  
some change.

- by Mark Cormier

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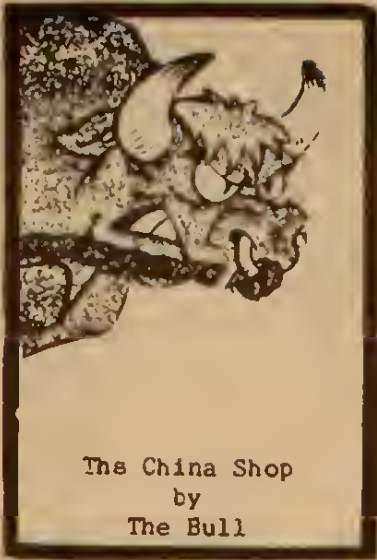
## N O V E M B E R C A L E N D A R

SAT	1	"THE ATOMIC CAFE" DJ JEAN LOUIS	9 30	FREE
SUN	2	"URBAN REFORM" DJ KEVIN C.	9 30	FREE
MON	3	"OPEN SCREEN" Film Showcase-16mm & Super8 DJ Keith	9 30	FREE
TUE	4	THE PROPER SHOES (live at 10)		FREE
WED	5	"ONE WORLD BEAT" DJ JONATHON E. (reggae/funk)	9 30	FREE
THUR	6	MOVING PARTS (live at 11) DJ MINK	9 30	FREE
FRI	7	LEGAL REINS - SHIVA DANCING.	9 30	\$4
SAT	8	"THE ATOMIC CAFE" DJ JEAN LOUIS	9 30	FREE
SUN	9	"URBAN REFORM" DJ KEVIN C.	9 30	FREE
MON	10	"OPEN SCREEN" Film Showcase-16mm & Super8 DJ Keith	9 30	FREE
TUE	11	GENERIC SOUND (live at 10)		FREE
WED	12	"ONE WORLD BEAT" DJ JONATHON E. (reggae/funk)	9 30	FREE
THUR	13	SLANT STEP (live at 11) DJ MINK	9 30	FREE
FRI	14	REGGAE CALENDAR BENEFIT - TAMBOREE & Rydem Rockers		\$5
SAT	15	"THE ATOMIC CAFE" DJ JEAN LOUIS	9 30	FREE
SUN	16	"URBAN REFORM" DJ KEVIN C.	9 30	FREE
MON	17	"OPEN SCREEN" Film Showcase-16mm & Super8 DJ Keith	9 30	FREE
TUE	18	M.I. ALTERNATIVE (live at 10)		FREE
WED	19	"ONE WORLD BEAT" DJ JONATHON E. (reggae/funk)	9 30	FREE
THUR	20	UNRULY WORLD (live at 11) DJ MINK	9 30	FREE
FRI	21	KOTOJA african DJ BOB LEHR (KPOO)	9 30	\$5
SAT	22	"THE ATOMIC CAFE" DJ JEAN LOUIS	9 30	FREE
SUN	23	"URBAN REFORM" DJ KEVIN C.	9 30	FREE
MON	24	"OPEN SCREEN" Film Showcase-16mm & Super8 DJ Keith	9 30	FREE
TUE	25	THE MAIDS (live at 10)		FREE
WED	26	"ONE WORLD BEAT" DJ JONATHON E. (reggae/funk)	9 30	FREE
THUR	27	THE SIGHS (live at 11) DJ MINK	9 30	FREE
FRI	28	PRAY FOR RAIN (a benefit for BEEF Magazine)	9 30	\$5
SAT	29	"THE ATOMIC CAFE" DJ JEAN LOUIS	9 30	FREE
SUN	30	"URBAN REFORM" DJ KEVIN C.	9 30	FREE



3160 16th St. San Francisco 621-1817





represents a victory for political string pulling and continues with the Planning Commission's adherence to atrocious planning decisions. Included in the project is Deringer's intention to tear down the Evergreen hotel, a residential hotel damaged by fire several years ago.

The atmosphere surrounding this hearing can only be described as the sleaziest that I have seen in my five years of attending various hearings for the North Mission Association. The slime got so deep that I had to lift the bottom of my jeans and tiptoe out of the room at the end of the hearing.

This okay marks the first time Deringer has been able to get an approval for any kind of building on the lots at South Van Ness and Mission since he built the Van Ness Plaza. In the past, the Board of Supervisors twice rejected Deringer's attempts to exempt his project from the Downtown Plan. In a major victory for the North Mission neighborhood several months ago, this very same Planning Commission rejected Deringer's plans to erect two office buildings totalling 450,000 square feet. This time we were not so lucky.

Unfortunately for us this was a cooked deal from the word go. As each group got up to speak against this project it was apparent that there were glaring inconsistencies between what the project actually was and how the planning department was presenting it. I actually had the feeling that we were making some headway when I walked Jim Gonzalez, side to our Queen Mayor. I knew our goose was cooked. (Gonzalez, some of you may remember, spoke before a meeting of

Well sports fans we've been screwed again. That San Francisco repository of of intelligent urban planning, the Planning Commission, has approved a new building for wealthy suburbanite Richard Deringer, the Woodside aspirant to the horse set.

On Thursday, October 16 the Planning Commission, riding roughshod over the concerns of the neighborhood, approved a building for Richard Deringer's Development Group. The building, while comprising only a small portion of Deringer's original

the North Mission Association when he was running for something (I forget what) and prattled on about helping the neighborhoods if he got elected. He remains the mayor's flunky and, like the Planning Commission, slavishly does her bidding. Big help.)

To continue with this sordid tale, any building 50,000 square feet or larger falls under the aegis of the Downtown Plan. This building, according to the calculations of Brian Doohan, a neighborhood activist, has 49,998 square feet of office space. I think this is a new record for buildings that fall in the category of 49ers. Since this issue of the North Mission News is coming out after the election I can only hope that you had the good sense to vote for Proposition M which would eliminate this kind of idiocy.

Deringer rolled out the big guns for this hearing, the Coblentz law firm; the heaviest hitting developmental lawyers in the city. These guys are so well connected that a schematic of their ties to the city wheels would look like PG&E's power grid. Previously Deringer has used and spurned, after they failed to get him what he wanted, the execrable Tim Toats and the oily John Sanger.

But as Bob Dylan wrote in the Ballad of Hattie Carroll, "take the rag away from your face, now ain't the time for your tears." We have many avenues of appeal and we are going to use every one of them.

Perhaps the sleaziest part of these shenanigans is the fate to which these bureaucrats have consigned the Evergreen Hotel. Despite abnormally clear language in the Residential Hotel Preservation ordinance, Deringer will not have to replace the housing units lost when the Evergreen burned. These slime buckets say that if someone buys a residential hotel after it has a fire then the new owner is not obligated, as the former owner is, to replace the housing lost. Housing I would remind you for the poorest segment of our neighborhood. This tortured reasoning opens a loophole in the law that invites owners of residential hotels who want to sell out, to burn out the residents before a sale.

Not that these gangsters care about that. After all this is the same commission where a former member stated in public session that the Mission could use gentrifying. Yes indeed, nothing like fire bomb renovation.

At this point what we are left with is to fight this project with guerrilla action within the City's bureaucracy. This project needs a slew of permits and we hope to appeal each and every one.

BOB WEISBLATT

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# ELECTION DAY of the DEAD



## BOARD GAMES

- by Nick Hornsfelt

**Editor's Note** - Before the 1986 elections, we received a sealed envelope from Mr. Hornsfelt postmarked Lantana, Florida. As he has not yet returned, we opened it and now print what may be the last "Board Games" column...

Writing for a monthly paper it's hard to be current, so one has to go for the topical. On the topic of the election I have gotten out three columns and thought I would move on to new territory for November. Then it happened!

I'm minding my own business, taking the stairs down into the Metro when I look up and there is Bill Maher's face on a huge sign that says "Results, not Rhetoric". What!?

I come off the Metro and there is a billboard that says "Hongisto, keep them honest". I think: "Hongisto, keep him off the highways".

Turning the corner I'm met with a poster that says "Doris Ward, open to the public". Somehow the phrase "open to the public" brings to mind Wendy Nelder, not Doris Ward. By the way, Sup. Ward's poster was on one of those walls covered with thousands of tattered flyers advertising metaphysical healers, "Circle Jerks" at the Stone, and "The Pope is a Nazi collaborating anti-Christ". Some graffiti war.

It was the slogans of the candidates that inspired me to do one more election piece. If the candidates can take us on flights of fancy with ad agency corn-pone slogans, I can indulge in editorial fantasy or.....

MY PREDICTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTION!! (Good-bye N. Mission News, hello Enquirer. Stand back, Jean Dixon!)

Good evening Mr. and Mrs. San Francisco and all the ships at sea. The votes have been tallied, the results are in and the winners announced. Although tens of thousands of votes were cast in San Francisco for the Governor's race and on statewide propositions, only a mere 3,000 voters bothered to vote for Supervisors.

The big winner and new Board President is Angela Alioto with 875 votes. Sup. Alioto thanked her family, campaign staff, law clients and "those three other people who voted for me, whoever you are." Then she stunned the media by announcing her choice of columnist Nick Hornsfelt as personal press secretary, at an undisclosed salary reported to be in six figures (not counting the ones after the decimal point).

Pat Norman came in next with 625 votes. Ms. Norman thanked the gay community and pledged to be as controversial as "that gay guy on the Board, what's-his-name".

A big surprise was Nicole Myers' Humanist victory with 480 votes. Sup. Myers invited all 480 people who voted for her to bring a "covered dish" to her campaign headquarters/apartment for a neighborhood grass-roots strategy "pot-luck" symposium.

Sup. Bill Maher retained his seat on the Board with 347 votes. Sup. Maher thanked God for his boyish good looks, his barber for the "Kennedy Cut", and his photographer for bringing it all to the people. Results without messy old rhetoric.

Finally, the biggest upset of the election was the 310 votes that swept Sylvia Weinstein, Socialist, onto the Board. Sup. Weinstein pledged to keep her promise "to get rid of those damn mechanical street sweepers", thus creating jobs for the unemployed, including former Supervisors. When this is accomplished she vows to unionize the Board.

Next up is the largest vote getter of the losers, Richard Hongisto with 148 votes. Citizen Hongisto informed the press that he has been offered a "post" at the Betty Ford Clinic and would be leaving town immediately.

The remaining 215 votes were split up by the "also rans". When contacted for comment here are some of their reactions:

Doris Ward: "Well, all I can say is, this is one vote I shouldn't have missed."

Wendy Nelder: "I HATE HER, I HATE HER, I HATE HER!!!" Then Ms. Nelder's eyes grew wide, she fell to the floor foaming at the mouth and had to be carried from the room before she could identify the person she was referring to.

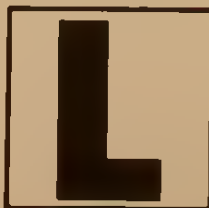
Nancy Walker: "Was I running THIS year? Damn!" Now we return you to reality.....

.....

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